

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 IO-14 DPW-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

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O R 021145Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9246

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

MACTHAI NKP

UNCLAS SAIGON 12777

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS MILI VS VN

SUBJECT: DEPARTURE STATEMENT OF DEPSECDEF CLEMENTS

FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY MISSION
ON BEHALF OF U.S. DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, MR. WILLIAM
P. CLEMENTS, JR., UPON HIS DEPARTURE FROM SAIGON,
OCTOBER 2, 1974.

"I AM ON A FAMILIARIZATION TRIP TO CERTAIN ASIAN COUNTRIES.
HERE, AS ELSEWHERE, I HAVE HELD DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE
BEEN VERY HELPFUL TO MY UNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL CONDITIONS
AND PROBLEMS. I HAVE TALKED WITH PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU,
PRIME MINISTER TRAN THIEN KHIEM AND GENERAL CAO VAN VIEN,
AND I HAVE BEEN BRIEFED BY GENERAL VIEN'S OFFICERS.

ON THE U.S. SIDE, I'VE TALKED AT LENGTH WITH AMBASSADOR
GRAHMA A. MARTIN AND THE DEFENSE ATTACHE GENERAL HOMER
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SMITH AND HAVE BEEN BRIEFED BY MEMBERS OF THEIR STAFFS.

IN MY DISCUSSIONS, I HAVE OF COURSE CONCENTRATED ON MILITARY MATTERS. AS I HAVE LISTENED AND OBSERVED. I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY IMPRESSED WITH THE INTELLIGENCE, INVENTIVENESS AND DETERMINATION THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARMED FORCES ARE APPLYING TO THEIR GRAVE PROBLEMS. I WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT WHAT I HAVE SAID TO PRESIDENT THIEU AND THE PRIME MINISTER AND GENERAL VIEN EARLIER --- THAT I CONGRATULATE THEM ON THE ADJUSTMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE, THE PRIORITIES WHICH THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED, AND THE REALISM OF THEIR ASSESSMENTS.

FROM WHAT I HAVE SEEN AND FROM THE REPORTS MADE TO ME I AM DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE, THE DEDICATION AND THE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF THE VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES. THEY FACE A VERY HARD AND DIFFICULT TASK, ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE APPEARS TO BE LITTLE CONSTRAINT ON THE SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION, FUEL AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY FORCES WHO, IN TOTAL DISREGARD OF THE COMMITMENTS THEY UNDERTOOK IN SIGNING THE PARIS AGREEMENT, CONTINUE THEIR INFILTRATION OF MEN AND MUNITIONS AND THEIR ATTACKS AGAINST THIS COUNTRY.

AS FAR AS THE U.S. IS CONCERNED WE DESIRE THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A DESIRE COMPLETELY CHARED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT THE OTHER SIDE WILL ALSO COME TO THAT REALIZATION SO THAT THERE CAN BE AN END TO THE DEATHS ON BOTH SIDES AND THAT WE CAN HAVE A REAL PEACE IN THIS COUNTRY."

MARTIN

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NNN

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TAGS: MOPS, MILI, OVIP, VS, VN, (CLEMENTS, WILLIAM)
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005